



NEWS RELEASE

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Two Projects In Fort Scott Receive Grant Selections From USDA Rural Development *Rural Energy for America Program* *Kansas Energy Efficiency Projects Announced*

Topeka – USDA Rural Development Area Director Randy Snider, along with Area Specialist Katie Casper of the Iola Area Office, congratulated two Fort Scott applicants for being selected to receive a total of \$15,968 in grants to make energy efficiency improvements. The funds are administered through USDA Rural Development's *Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)* which was established in the 2008 Farm Bill and is not part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

In addition to the USDA Rural Development funds, recipients will invest \$47,909 from other sources. Funding of each recipient is contingent upon the recipient meeting the conditions of the grant agreement.

Area Specialist Katie Casper commented, "These small businesses receiving funds should be commended for their efforts to reduce energy consumption in their respective operations. By making these proposed improvements, the grant recipients are not only improving their business operations, but improving the quality of the environment in the community."

An annual energy savings of 50% is expected by Heritage Place, LLC in Fort Scott for energy efficiency improvements to a historic building downtown. The project was selected for a \$10,300 grant with an applicant contribution of \$30,904. The building requires updates that have not been made in nearly 30 years. Heritage Place LLC will be replacing the roof with reflective energy efficient roofing, replace heating, ventilating, and air conditioning system complete, update historic windows to energy efficient status, replace lighting, and replace hot water heaters with more efficient equipment.

Donnie and Georgia Brown of Fort Scott have been selected for a \$5,668 grant for energy efficiency improvements to replace 5 heating, ventilating, and air conditioning units for a commercial business space. The existing heating, ventilating, and air conditioning units are 20 plus years old and extremely inefficient. This project will save both electricity and gas, with an annual energy savings of 89.4%. USDA Rural Development funding will be combined with an applicant contribution of \$17,005.

Twenty-three renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in Kansas were recently announced by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, for an aggregate total of \$1,320,373 in loans and grants, with leveraged funds of \$1,578,302.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural residents. Rural Development fosters growth in homeownership, finances business development and supports the creation of critical community and technology infrastructure.

For additional information regarding all USDA Rural Development programs, contact the Agency at 785-271-2700 or visit the Agency's Kansas website at www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – Committed to the future of rural communities.

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